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BRYAN TWELVE YEARS AFTER.
William Jennings Bryan, in 1896, the
emotional product of an emotional
convention, a young man fired with a single
idea, put the Republican party to its
supreme test, and, combating an opposi-
tion of limitless material resources, re-
ceived the largest popular vote ever cast
for a Democratic candidate for President.
The burning issue of that memorable
campaign, which the youthful crusader—
declared would never be settled until it
was settled right, was settled shortly
thereafter—and settled right.
William Jennings Bryan, in 1908, a year
made abnormal by extraordinary condi-
tions growing out of the war with Spain,
led a wavering, divided, all but disrupted
party through a hopeless campaign to an
inevitable defeat—a defeat crushing
forever but for the indomitable charac-
teristics of the man.
In 1904, yielding to the demand of a
Wall street contingent of the party not
worth reckoning with, the Democracy
abandoned ideals, and permitted the East
to shape its policies and name its candi-
date. Alton B. Parker, an amiable gen-
tleman of some judicial attainments, but
a negative quantity in politics, clumsily
led a fight foredoomed to fail, and which
deserved to fail. Wreckage of the party
was strewn from one end of the country
to the other at a Waterloo second only to
Greely's in 1872.
Now, twelve years after his entrance
into national life, William Jennings Bryan
comes to the fore again as his party's
standard bearer in a Presidential cam-
paign—not a youthful crusader born of
an economic frenzy and fired with but a
single idea as in 1896; not a mere leader of
a forlorn hope, nominated for the sake of
"another chance," as in 1900, but a middle-
aged, matured man of many ideas, de-
liberately chosen by sober-minded Demo-
crats, representing the overwhelming mass
of his party, who, having faith in him
and in his leadership, see in the changed
conditions in the land the possibility of
his triumph in November.
A more machine-like proceeding than
that involved in the nomination of Bryan
at Denver has never occurred in conven-
tion history. But, unlike the Chicago af-
fair, which it resembled, it was not ma-
chine-made. It was party-made. The
body of delegates would scarce have
dared return home had they nominated
any one else. He became, as a matter
of fact, the fixed choice of the Demo-
cratic heart of the country months ago.
And no sort of intrigue or machination
could endanger his hold upon the party
masses. They wanted Bryan, and would
have no other.
What of November? Nobody can tell.
He would be a rash prophet, indeed, who
would venture to predict that William
Jennings Bryan would now know the
White House. But this we do know: He
has grown in wisdom with the passing
of the years; he has grown in the esteem
of his fellow-men the country over; he is,
next to Theodore Roosevelt, the best
known of all great Americans to-day,
and, next, also, to Theodore Roosevelt,
stands most conspicuously for those pro-
gressive or radical policies to the car-
rying forward of which a large section
of the country appears to be irrevocably
committed. Therefore, a by no means
one-sided campaign is certainly ahead of us.
Radicalism has not run its course.
In Bryan the Democratic party has a
candidate who is likely to poll a million
more votes against Taft than Parker
polled against Roosevelt. Even then
he may fall short of election. But the
Republican party will have a fight on
its hands—a fight from start to finish,
and one that will tax its resources to
the very limit. That, at any rate, is the
cool, candid judgment of this newspaper.

There is nothing of the firebrand in the
platform of the Democratic convention. It
contains no utterance that is startling,
menacing, or calculated in the slightest
degree to disturb the country's equanimity
or jeopardize its future.
On the whole, indeed, while unmis-
takeably progressive in its tenor, it is decid-
edly conservative in its text and its
promises. It declares for immediate
tariff revision, for an income tax, for
election of United States Senators by the
direct vote of the people (which, sure as
fate, will ultimately come), for a navy
adequate to protect both the Atlantic and
the Pacific seacoast, for a change of the
law governing the issuing of injunctions
by the courts, for greater economy in
governmental expenditures, for a continu-
ation of the present liberal pension policy,
for publicity of campaign expenses,
for home rule for the States, and other
affirmative doctrines commonly found in
party platforms, but which touch less
vital spots in the body politic.
Asserting the right of Congress to ex-
ercise complete control over interstate
commerce and demanding an enlargement
of the powers of the Interstate Commerce
Commission, it makes a recommendation
which the Republican convention refused
to make—the valuation of the railroads.
In order fairly to pass upon questions of
rates, it heartily approves—and thus
voices honest public sentiment—the law
prohibiting the pass and the rebate.
Almost universal assent will be given
to that plank condemning the use of Fed-
eral patronage for political ends.
The platform is like that of the Chi-
cago convention—and like that of every
partisan convention—in the careful fram-
ing and shading of its utterances. Never
this side of the millennium will expediency
cease to figure in such an equation. But
it is comparatively free from meaningless
platitudes, nevertheless, and clear enough
to be generally understood.
If it does not prove helpful to the
party, it will, at least, not be hurtful to it.
However, it may be truthfully said that
the candidate, Mr. Bryan, and not the
Denver platform, is going to be the vote-
getting or vote-repelling factor in this
campaign on the Democratic side, just
as Mr. Taft, and not the Chicago plat-
form, will be the controlling or deter-
mining factor on the other side. It
is the man and what he stands for
that will make for victory or defeat at
the polls four months hence.

Apparently the Woodrow Wilson boom
will not even get a look-in at Denver.
Conserving Our Resources.
Of the campaigns in which President
Roosevelt is engaged there is none that
appeals so strongly on the score of its
utility and common sense as his cam-
paign for the conservation of the natural
resources of the country. It is very evi-
dent, already, that his meeting of the
governors is to bear good fruit. He has
received word from the governors of
twenty States, officials who were im-
pressed by the Washington meeting, that
they have appointed commissions to co-
operate with the National Conservation
Commission.
And now each chief of a bureau in
Washington whose work bears a relation
to the natural resources of the country is
busy collecting material for the use of
the commission, and before the summer
ends the commission will have before it
the reports, giving in detail the present
condition and extent of the country's nat-
ural resources; how they have been used
and abused in the past; how they are be-
ing used or exhausted to-day; what steps
have been taken to prevent waste, and
what is being done to preserve them for
the future.
All this indicates an aroused public con-
science on the question of the natural re-
sources with which this continent has
been so richly endowed. It means, too,
an awakening of the public mind to the
duty of "unselfishness." It indicates a
growing realization of the duty of the
present one to the generations yet to
come, and, although this movement has
been ushered in without pomp or cere-
mony, and has, so far, no practical po-
litical significance, it is not improbable
that, when history comes to be written,
this one advanced step in sociology will
stand out as the biggest achievement of
the Roosevelt administrations.

We hereby renew our suggestion that
you paste John A. Johnson's name in
your hat for future reference.
The Commoner's Wealth.
First and last since the present cam-
paign issue was joined with the mention
of Mr. W. J. Bryan and Mr. W. H. Taft
as rivals—which they have in fact be-
come—a good deal has been said, most
of it in a sneering way, about the sup-
posed fortune amassed by W. J. Bryan
since he first emerged from the obscurity
of his Nebraska law office to a position
in the House of Representatives and
afterward to a political career.
There is no means of knowing, per-
haps, just how much money Mr. Bryan
is worth, but a statement more or less
authentic places his fortune at or near
\$100,000. This is not a great sum, but it
is enough to insure a comfortable living
for himself and his family.
All this talk about the wealth of the
Democratic candidate for the Presidency
carries with it the sneer that Mr. Bryan
is in politics for the lowest of motives;
for the money that may be made out
of it. There have been fears at the
lectures he has given before Chautau-
quas, at the royalties from his books,
and at his Lincoln newspaper, The Com-
moner, as if all these were not fields
of worthy and laudable endeavor. The
present incumbent of the White House
has not been above making money out
of his writings, although he was born to
fortune; and only recently we have had
it heralded far and wide that on his
reputation as a hunter and because he
will be an ex-President, he is to be

paid over \$1 a word for all he writes
about his Central African hunting trip.
Mr. Bryan has been before the public
for a long time. There may be qual-
ities in the man that unfit him for the
office of President of the United States,
but one thing is certain, that in all his
public career no one has impugned his
honesty and integrity in the slightest
degree. Whatever his wealth may be, he
has made it honestly, by hard work.
If he has succeeded in amassing a sum
of over \$100,000 for his own by legiti-
mate and honorable means, it is, in-
stead of being a discredit to him, only
a proof of his capability.

A Pennsylvania man whose business
it is to read gas meters complains that
he has been bitten nineteen times at
one place by the same dog. He ought
to guess at the state of the meter in
that house. Doubtless it would be just
as satisfactory to the company.
"Old Honesty" was on a race on a Brook-
lyn track recently. There must have
been something crooked about it.
At the rate Mexico is progressing, you
will not be able to tell a bunch of pacified
Yaquis from a bunch of pacified
Moros twelve months hence, unless you
visit the happy hunting grounds to in-
vestigate.
"There are enough politicians in Kan-
sas to hush the entire corn crop," says a
contemporary. Perhaps. But most of
them are busy on the job of saving the
country.
An admirer of the President says "he
is wild about literature." Now, if one of
Mr. Roosevelt's "unfriendly" had said
that, there would be trouble in camp.
"Uncle Joe" says he enjoyed his "race
for the nomination." It takes so little
to please "Uncle Joe" these days, you
know.
Down in Birmingham these "dry" north
they refer to their neighbor to the time
as "Grand Old Tennessee."

"The sheath gown created surprise at
Coney Island," says a New York paper.
Probably Coneyites wondered what on
earth the previous rumpus was all about,
anyhow.
The tetanus germ believes in an insane
Fourth of July, all right.
The Missouri Court of Appeals has de-
cided that Adam and Eve were legally
married. Who has been trying to go be-
hind the returns in that matter, anyway?
A foreign business man washed his win-
dows with "Old Glory" on Independence
Day, down in Panama—but he won't do
it any more.
It is said the President has been offered
\$1 per word for a magazine account of
his African hunting experience. Does
that include such words as "thru,"
"thoro," "tho," and "tut?"
A Paris editor has been wounded in a
duel. This should be a magnificent ad-
vertisement for him.
Until they are duly notified, the various
nominees will kindly look as unconscious
and demure as possible.
Gov. Hughes is camping in the Adirond-
acks, but he isn't so far lost in the tall
timbers that he can't keep an eye on
things at Albany.
Lemons are advancing in price. The
demand, we believe, is generally rather
brisk during a campaign year.
Beef-raising is getting to be quite a
large business in the South. Doubtless
the inhabitants have reached the conclusion
that it is easier to raise the beef than
it is the price.

THE OPIUM TRADE.
England's Morals and Other Peo-
ple's Money.
From the New York Post.
About three weeks ago the House of
Commons unanimously adopted resolu-
tions on the subject of the Indo-Chinese
opium trade, with a recommendation that
the licensing of opium dens in British
Crown colonies, such as the Straits Settle-
ments, be abolished. In a letter to the
London Times, Sir Frank Swettenham,
formerly governor of the Settlements,
writes:
"The opium habit, when indulged in to
excess, is a bad and harmful practice, but
the members of the last royal commission
on opium went more thoroughly into the
question and spoke with greater author-
ity than will be the case with any local
commission. Setting aside the large re-
venue losses, which the people of the East-
ern colonies will have to make good as
best they can—perhaps by means of a sci-
entific tariff involving the taxation of
British and foreign manufactures—it is
questionable whether the consumption of
opium can be suppressed by law. It also
remains to be seen whether consumers of
opium, deprived of the drug, will not con-
tract the habit of drinking intoxicants,
and perhaps carry that to greater excess
with worse results. The experiment may
involve something more than 'our own
morals and other people's money.'"
The Morning Paper.
From the New Haven Journal.
These times afford a striking illustra-
tion of the inestimable usefulness and
value of the morning newspapers. The
preparations which are being made for
the assembling of the great national party
conventions to nominate candidates for
the Presidency and Vice Presidency are of
immense importance to the citizen who
wishes to vote intelligently in November,
and of even greater importance will be
the news from the conventions when they
have been called together and organized.
To an adequate understanding of the
significance of these daily events a morn-
ing newspaper is indispensable, except
upon the hopeless theory that the Ameri-
can people, alert in every other particu-
lar, are willing to wait until the after-
noon for news amply provided at the
breakfast table. The news from the city
of Chicago these days is pressing inter-
est, and in order to read the story of it
consecutively and intelligently the morn-
ing newspaper must be had.

Dislikes Taft.
From the Worcester Telegram.
An apologist for Secretary Taft says he
simply "slopped over." That is what he
always does. No man ever ran for the
Republican nomination for President
whose speeches have so consistently been
sloppy, dreary, and commonplace.
Stop Eating Eggs.
From the Columbus News-Leader.
"Dr. W. L. Sambon, of the London
School of Tropical Medicine, has in a late
number of the Lancet accused eggs of
spreading diphtheria." For gracious sake,
what is the next thing we must not eat?

A LITTLE NONSENSE

KITTENS.
Cunning little things are they;
Roly
Poly,
Pond of play.
See them tumble in the sun;
Happy,
Scrappy,
Full of fun!
Every one these babies pats;
Purry,
Purry
Little cats.
That's Enough.
"So-and-so, why don't you do this and
that?"
"I have various reasons. In the first
place, my wife doesn't want me to."
"I see. You needn't mention the other
reasons."
"Love me, love my dog," chirped the
maiden.
"Excuse me," retorted the man, "but
mine is not a case of puppy affection."

Convicted.
"What's the matter with you? You put
a big ad in the paper, and now you have
not enough goods to supply the
rush."
"Well, I thought the benefits of adver-
tising were exaggerated. I'll never be
that kind of a chump again."

The Process.
Acquaintance ripens into love
When one takes care
To add growth by a good supply
Of heated air.
Making Literature.
"What do you want with this automo-
bile catalog?"
"I propose to write some dialogue for
it, and then it will be a motor novel."

One Recompense.
"The sheet-iron clothing a chap had to
wear during the middle ages must have
been far from comfortable."
"Still, a fellow could have a permanent
crease put in his trousers."

No Telling.
"I expect to spend my vacation with
relatives in the country. That outing
won't cost me much."
"Don't be too sure about that. Wait
until they visit you this winter."

BRYAN'S PROPERTY.
Not a Rich Man, Though He Is
Fairly Comfortable.
From the Indianapolis Star.
According to the hasty estimate made
by the county assessors, W. J. Bryan
stands eighth in the list of Lincoln's
wealthy men. Mr. Bryan's possessions,
as estimated in the list filed in the court-
house, total the modest sum of \$84,000.
This total is made up of the following
items:
One hundred and thirty-five acres of farm land
city acres, worth \$5,000, in the name of Mrs.
Bryan.....\$25,125
House at Fairview.....21,000
Improvements.....2,250
The Commoner.....15,000
Personal property.....12,800
The latter item is made up of the fol-
lowing as returned by their owner:
Household goods.....\$3,800
Jewelry.....400
Furniture and fixtures.....1,200
Cups.....40
Dish on hand April 1.....2,100
Piano.....500
Furniture.....1,000
Agricultural tools.....150
Four horses.....100
Four cows.....100
Pigpens.....100
Diamonds.....200
Six vehicles.....80

In Nebraska the law is that everything
shall be assessed at its cash value, but as
a rule the valuation made represents
about three-fourths of the true value. If
it were the full value of Mr. Bryan's
possessions in Nebraska, real and
personal, are worth actually slightly in
excess of \$100,000.

MEXICAN INVESTMENTS.
In Spite of Disturbances Are Re-
garded as Safe.
From the New York Times.
American investors interested in Mexi-
can enterprises have read with some dis-
quietude about the disturbances in the
state of Coahuila, and their anxiety will
not end until the government proves its
contention that "revolution" is far too
big a word to apply to a trivial outbreak
of bandits and outlaws. In all probability
it is nothing but that, and nobody would
pay much attention to it were it not for
the fact that there has been quite a lot
of talk, recently, about a steady growth
among Mexicans of the lower order of
hostility to foreigners and to the Diaz
government, that invites them in and
protects them.
Vice President Corral, however, speak-
ing for the administration, gives reassur-
ance by promising the employment of
stern measures to show that the distur-
bances of to-day are not the Mexico
of twenty years ago, and that the "af-
fair" at Viesca will have no consequences
except for those who took part in it.
No doubt, means are being used and
business for firing squads. Which is im-
pleasant, but apparently necessary.

The Veterans.
From the Mobile Item.
Birmingham has within her confines to-
day many of the remaining few of one
of the most patriotic armies that ever
fought for home and honor. It is the
eve of the reunion of the United Con-
federate Veterans. These grand old he-
roes will be welcomed with open arms
and nothing will be left undone to make
them realize they are in the home of
their friends. It will be a great gather-
ing, and we feel sure the old heroes will
have the time of their lives. It will be
but a little while until all of these dear
old comrades will have passed from earth
to rally around the matchless leaders in
the great beyond, and it is but fitting
they should, in their declining days, be
shown all honor and courtesy in the land
for which they so bravely fought.

Chicago Censors.
From the New York World.
The Chicago police squad detailed to
censor moving-picture shows has found a
trifle field of inquiry in Shakespeare's
"Macbeth." The power of mental sug-
gestion is the psychological shibboleth of
the hour. "Hamlet" should next be
under the ban. How many an ingenious
mind has been perverted by the riot of
murderous passion in that tragedy!

More Prosperity.
From the Milwaukee Sentinel.
"I am having twice as many operations
for appendicitis this year as last," chirps
a Chicago doctor. Another jolt for the
croakers.
Summer Dawn.
Pray that one prayer for me 'twixt thy closed lips,
Think but one thought of me up in the stars.
The summer night waltz, the morning light sigh,
Point and pray 'twixt the leaves of the aspen,
betwixt the clouds—
That are patiently waiting there for the dawn;
Patient and serene, though Heaven's gold
Waits to float through them along with the Sun.
Far out in the meadows, above the young corn,
The heavy elms wait, and restless and cold
The sweet wind rises; the roses are dim;
Through the long twilight they pray for the dawn.
Round the lone house in the midst of the corn,
On his side, one word to me over the corn,
Over the tender, bow'd locks of the corn.
—William Morris.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

The Indianapolis News thinks that too
much importance has been attached to
the wording of the Democratic platform.
It says:
"In connection with all that friction
over the platform, it might have a tran-
quilizing effect for the builders to reflect
that a considerable number of the mere
voters will never have the remotest idea
of what it contains, to say nothing of a
proper appreciation of the niceties of its
philosophy."
That Mr. Taft is having to be cautious
in his public utterances is pointed out by
the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which says
that—
"Mr. Taft did not shine as a rear
platform orator on his trip into the Vir-
ginia mountains. At one siding, where
an enthusiastic crowd greeted him, he de-
livered this oration:
"I am indebted to you for this evidence
of hospitality, but I am responsible now
to my party for what I say. I am re-
sponsible to a great party." (Cheers.)
"To much responsibility of this kind is
not to be desired. Many a candidate, tak-
ing himself too seriously, has put his
foot in his mouth in spite of himself."

The Birmingham News believes that the
big political fight this year will be in the
West, and it predicts a Bryan victory. It
says:
"So that the real fight will be in the
West. Nebraska and Iowa, among other
Western States, will see a vigorous con-
test. Mr. Bryan's towering strength on
the stump, coupled with dissatisfaction
over the doings of the Chicago convention
and the absence of a match for the Ne-
braska as a stump speaker, have already
created uneasiness in the Republican
camp. It's a fight to the finish, and there
be close political observers who think they
see a defeat for Judge Taft already brew-
ing in the West."

The Rochester Herald thinks that Mr.
Taft's platform is most adroitly planned,
and compares it to a trap admirable con-
trived. It points out that: "A year or two
ago Mr. Taft was under grave suspicion
that quarter because of certain moder-
ate leanings which he was supposed to
have toward tariff reduction. But his
tariff plank has paid all debts, it seems.
He and the convention which nominated
him are acquitted by the Economist, the
highest stand-pat authority, of any in-
tention to reduce duties or to lessen the
burdens which now oppress American
manufacturers and American consumers.
Let us read the judgment of acquittal:
"After full consideration of the whole
subject, the Republican party, in conven-
tion assembled, did not declare for re-
vision of the tariff downward, nor did it
give the slightest intimation that the be-
lief is entertained by the great body of
Republicans throughout the land that the
tariff rates of the Dingley law are too
high."
Mr. Taft's platform, like his recent po-
litical speeches, is as admirably contrived
to catch votes as the old farmer's trap
was to catch cats. Open at both ends, it
'catches 'em comin' and goin'."

The Philadelphia Ledger gloomily won-
ders if the present Democratic conven-
tion is not to be the death-scene of the
party. It asks:
"Has the old Democratic party given
up the fight and lost its existence as
one by one, the men who stood by
Cleveland have paid the debt of nature
and passed to the realm of silence? Is
the Denver convention to be known as
only a scene of Bryan's victory, but
as the last breathing of the old Demo-
cracy and the unobstructed entrance of
a party bearing the old Democratic name
on a flag carried by a host which knows
not tariff reform, financial soundness, in-
dividual Americanism and the develop-
ment of material prosperity, and stands
for notions, theories, administrative in-
competence and recklessness of respon-
sibility, for the influence which for the
first time in its existence would give the
Republic a definite impetus toward mobs
and revolution?"

The Des Moines Capital, while admit-
ting that Mr. Bryan has some virtues,
does not think he is yet fit for a halo. It
says:
"We are willing to admit that Mr. Wil-
liam J. Bryan is a good man judged by
the ordinary standards of human con-
duct, but really we must insist that Mr.
Wells and others of his school, the ad-
ulationists leave those artificial wings
in the feather renovator awhile longer,
and that the halo which they have been
burnishing so industriously be not quite
so soon exposed to the air."

The New York Tribune thinks the Den-
ver delegates are shackled. It says:
"In New York the free and easy dele-
gates to the Socialist Labor convention
nominate a committee for the Presidency
Out in Denver it is the delegates who are
shackled and the nominee who remains at
large."
The Omaha Bee sees in the closeness of
the big fight this year a chance for the
little fellows. It suggests that "Tom
Watson and Eugene V. Debs should cheer
up. The New York World has it figured
out that neither Mr. Bryan nor Mr. Taft
can be elected President."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch finds in the
political outlook a new definition. It de-
clares: "An optimist is a man who be-
lieves that President Taft will restore
railroad passes."

Room in Chicago.
From the Philadelphia Press.
In Chicago they are dreaming of con-
structing sidewalks above the streets on
the level with the second floors of busi-
ness houses for the use of shoppers and
others, leaving the street surface chiefly
to cars and trucks. If in addition to this
Chicago carries out the proposition for a
three-story subway there ought to be
room on one level or another, or on all of
the levels together, for whatever is going
on in that town.

A Paris Cabby.
From the London Telegraph.
Benjamin Libouret's name deserves to
be recorded—in a credit to the "cochers"
of Paris, whose honesty he has vindicated.
He worth some £15,000, in his cab, left
there by an oblivious passenger, he car-
ried the package to the prefecture of po-
lice, and simply left his number. Two
days later he received a sum of £50, in
two banknotes, from the owner, who was,
on his side, happy to have recovered his
lost property.

International Host.
From the Review of Reviews.
If once the ideal John Bull as interna-
tional host is firmly grasped, the estab-
lishment of an international hotel and
of information bureaus in London will be
seen to be indispensable. We cannot de-
mocratize our national hospitality unless
we have some one who is told off to act
as the national head porter.

Joe's Instability.
From the Leeds County Herald.
An old farmer near Rolla undertook to
hold a playful young bull by the tail. His
widow says Joseph was never known to
stick to anything more than ten minutes.

Not He.
From the Omaha Bee.
"Will Uncle Joe Cannan explain in sim-
ple, unadorned language why no notice
was done to discourage the paper trust?"
asks the Chicago Tribune. He will not.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE.

The Three R's of Sixty Years Ago.
From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
There has been found in a safe in
Springfield, Mass., a bunch of examina-
tion papers used in the public schools just
sixty years ago in which reading, writing,
arithmetic, and geography were tests in
one of the grandes. Fortunately, all the
papers were in the same collection. It
occurred to the principal of the schools
of that city to offer the same questions
at an examination in similar grades of
pupils of to-day for purposes of compari-
son. As a result the children to-day have
made better records than those of sixty
years ago, although in some respects the
advance is not overrunning.
The inference is that children are bet-
ter grounded in the elements of knowl-
edge than were their forebears, and it is
claimed that this is all the more impres-
sive because in this day many of the
school children are either foreign-born or
of parents who were born abroad, while
the older children were almost wholly of
good old American stock. It may be said
that while the advance is notable, it is
not particularly impressive, because of
the fact that in these days children go to
school earlier, have longer terms, and are
in smaller or better defined classes.
But if it is intended to show that we
are much better than our fathers the in-
cident is not convincing enough. It is
shown that our children are still deficient
in the matter of spelling and the sim-
plest arithmetic and geography. We ought
to be ashamed of existing conditions
rather than be proud of the slight ad-
vance in sixty years. We shall never
achieve anything like the desired results
until we cease to put forty children under
the care of a teacher, and especially of a
young woman whose mind is so strongly
set upon getting a tressouze. We must
make the business of teaching more im-
portant, pay it better, and so that our
children learn things absolutely rather
than on a 70 per cent basis of perfection.

FREAK LEGISLATION.
Does Not Thrive in Presidential
Years.
From the Knoxville Sentinel.
Freak legislation does not seem to thrive
in Presidential years. After copying the
Texas nine-foot sheet law, Oklahoma law-
makers gave their attention to various
other human frailties and abuses. One
champion of the rights of the other half
of mankind proposed that every married
man should be made to cook breakfast
Sunday mornings in order that his wife
might be able to get ready for church
service. He did not explain whether a
mere man needs less religion or less
adornment than a woman. Anyway there
was no word of approval from the
Federation of Women's Clubs. Another
gallant thinker of manners and morals
sought to establish the principle that six
visits to a young lady shall be held to
establish an intent to marry. This idea
could have been inspired only by a rail-
way lobbyist, for if it were acted upon
there would be a regular stampede of
Oklahoma's fairest daughters to States
where they could have a good time. After
these suggestions fell to the ground, the
surprise to hear that most of the other
efforts to make man happy by statute
still rest in committee pigeon holes.
There was a promise of fresh towels
every two days, of crockery without
cracks, and windows and doors provided
with mosquito nets, and there was the
threat to fine men who cross their legs
in public places when their boots are
moist. All have come to naught. Peo-
ple will have to rub along a while longer
taking care of themselves in these great
matters.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.
Many Grave Questions Remain to
Be Settled.
From the Boston Transcript.
Many questions connected with the
Presidential office remain unsettled. It is
peculiarly a position for a man of ex-
traordinary vigor, physical and mental.
Little provision has been made by Con-
stitution or custom for delegating its
functions. This has proved one of the
necessities of the future which the na-
tion-builders did not adequately foresee.
The President is steadily becoming more
and more overworked, and the time will
doubtless come when a systematic analy-
sis of his duties will have to be made to
see to what extent some of them may be
assigned to subordinates. Eventually all
states may have to provide some stand-
ard of disability in accordance with which
a President, even without his own con-
sent, may be displaced by the man next
in line. A federal judge who became in-
sane was once removed to an asylum by
means of getting him out of office. It is
to be hoped that some more humane
method of dealing with an afflicted Presi-
dent could be devised.

Underserved Defeat.
From the Charleston News and Courier.
In spite of an uncontrollable propensity
to rise upon his feet and speak and agree-
able willingness to be sat upon, John
Wesley Gaines, Congressman from the
Sixth Tennessee district for the last
twelve years, who was defeated for re-
election last week, earned the reputation
of an indefatigable worker, faithful to
the interests of his people and his coun-
try.
John Wesley Gaines has furnished more
material for the uses of tired paragraph-
ers than any other conspicuous figure in
the South, except perhaps John Tomp-
kins. When all others refused to talk
John Wesley lifted up his voice and ex-
posed himself as an easy target, but there
was substance in him, and he is en-
titled to classification in the condensed
catalogue of downright good fellows. We
shall miss him, even at this distance,
when he leaves the House, and that is
more than we could say truthfully of 30
per cent of his fellow-members.

Learn Ink Alone.
From the Rochester Herald.
An Albany politician was discussing the
heart troubles that oftentimes draw famous
men unwillingly into court.
"If these men," said he, "would paste
in their hats poor expatriated Abe Hum-
mel's advice, they'd have no difficulty
whatever."
"Abe's advice, which he incessantly re-
peated to his clients, was:
"Never make love to a woman
through an ink bottle."

New York's Islands.
From the National Magazine.
It is a surprising thing to know that
New York City, although not known as
the American Venice, contains more is-
lands than any city but Venice, for within
its boundaries are thirty-one separate
and distinct islands, most of which, en-
circled by deep water, will afford unlim-
ited shipping accommodations and dock-
age for the commerce of future years to
reach undreamed-of proportions, judging
from past and present growth.

Soul Capacity.
From the Houston Post.
An Englishman says one's ability to
be happy depends entirely upon one's soul
capacity. There is something in this the-
ory, and we are prepared to prove that
the average soul will dilate more rapidly
in Houston than in any other town in the
world.

The Steam Roller.
From the Milwaukee Sentinel.
The esteemed Indianapolis News is
dreadfully worked up over the move-
ments of the Taft "steam roller."
"Anything."

AT THE HOTELS.

"It looks on the surface, as if the Demo-
crats in West Virginia ought to elect
their ticket this fall," said John F. Camp-
bell, a prominent business man of Hunt-
ington, W. Va., at the Raleigh last night.
"The Republicans," continued Mr.
Campbell, "seem to be hopelessly apart
on the governor's ticket, having placed
two candidates in the field—Swisher and
Scherer. If the Democrats would ever
learn their lesson and stop fighting after
the convention has once decided upon the
candidate, and get together and work for
his election, there might be some chance
of Democratic success. But there is a les-
son the Democrats will never learn. They
will carry their feelings beyond the con-
vention into the regular election, and
thereby defeat their own candidate."
"The Republicans, on the other hand,
do all their fighting before and at the
convention; but after that they get to-
gether and work for the success of the
ticket. The Republicans of West Vir-
ginia will do the same thing—they will
get together and arrange matters to the
satisfaction of all concerned, and will
elect their own ticket. I am sure the
Democrats will have no more show in
West Virginia than they have in Pen-
sylvania, and that is saying a great deal."

"Taft will be elected, for the simple rea-
son that the whole Republican vote will
be cast for him. Bryan will be defeated,
because there are many Democrats who
will vote the Republican ticket. That's
all."

R. J. Guthrie, agricultural editor of the
Sydney Mail, Sydney, Australia, who is
traveling in this country, studying agri-
cultural conditions, is at the New Willard.
"Corn is king in America," said Mr.
Guthrie, "and the cow is the queen of
Australia. It was the cow that saved
our country in the great drought of a few
years ago. We have no use in